FUEL-BRIQUETTING AND PACKAGED-FUEL PLANTS IN THE UNITED STATES THAT REPORTED PRODUCTION IN 1958

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by

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INTRODUCTION

This report presents data on individual plants of the fuel-briquet and packaged-fuel industries that were circularized by the Bureau of Mines, United States Department of the Interior, in its annual survey for 1958. Only plants that processed fuels of mineral origin were included; specifically, plants that manufactured briquets from charcoal were excluded.

Fuel briquets and packaged fuel are manufactured by mixing fine-sized fuels with binders and compressing into small individual shapes. Both are used mainly for residential heating in the United States, but they differ considerably in appearance and physical characteristics. Briquets usually are produced as small, pillow-shaped forms, 2 to 4 inches in length, weighing from 2 to 4 ounces. Packaged fuel consists of 3- to 4-inch cubes, 6 or 8 of which are wrapped in heavy kraft paper to form a package weighing 10 to 15 pounds. Briquets are made with a water-insoluble binder and are designed for rough handling and outdoor storage, whereas packaged fuel generally is made with a water-soluble binder and must be stored indoors to prevent deterioration. Briquet plants are relatively large and usually are at mines or in dock areas where large quantities of fine-sized fuels accumulate. Packaged-fuel plants are smaller and are used chiefly by retail dealers to convert locally available coal and coke fines into a product that can be burned efficiently in residential heating equipment.

SUMMARY

Sixteen fuel-briquet plants and 23 packaged-fuel plants reported production in 1958. This was one less briquet plant but the same number of packaged-fuel plants as operated in 1957. The number of operating plants in each industry has declined steadily during the past decade, however, and less than half the number of plants of each type are currently in operation as were active in 1948.

The annual productive capacity of the fuel-briquet industry declined slightly, as one plant was abandoned and another reduced its capacity. But available capacity was more than adequate to meet consumer demands, as plants produced at only 34.3 percent of capacity. Every operating plant in 1958 had an annual capacity exceeding 25,000 tons. Three plants had a capacity of 400,000 tons or more. Table 2 shows the annual capacity and production of briquetting plants, 1954-58.

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The productive capacity of the packaged-fuel industry decreased 6 percent, as four companies were idle or abandoned and two active plants decreased capacity. The decrease was offset slightly by one new plant and three plants, idle in 1957, that reported small production in 1958. Packaged-fuel plants also operated at reduced rates, and existing capacity was about three-fourths greater than the rate of operation. Most packaged-fuel plants are small, and 17 of the active plants had a rated annual capacity of less than 5,000 tons. Only three plants had a capacity exceeding 10,000 tons. Table 3 shows the annual production and capacity of packaged-fuel plants, 1954-58.

Fuel briquets were produced in eight States and packaged fuel in seven States.

Wisconsin with six active plants had the largest number of briquet operations, followed by West Virginia, Missouri, and Pennsylvania, with two each. Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, and Michigan each had one operating plant.

Ohio with eight operations, had the largest number of packaged-fuel plants, followed by Michigan with five and Indiana with three. Illinois, Minnesota, and Virginia each had two, and Wisconsin had one.

The Berwind Fuel Co., Chicago, Illinois, was the largest producer of briquets in 1958. This company operated plants at Superior, Wisconsin, and Berwind, West Virginia, that are reported to be the world's largest briquet plants. Annual productive capacity of these plants was 600,000 and 400,000 tons, respectively. Johnson Coal Cubing Co., Inc., Detroit, Michigan, was the largest producer of packaged fuel.

Briquets were manufactured from seven different raw materials in 1958, but about two-thirds of the total was low-volatile bituminous coal. Other fuels in order of quantities consumed were petroleum coke, Pennsylvania anthracite, high-volatile bituminous coal, semianthracite, other anthracite, and bituminous coke. Most plants used more than one kind of raw fuel.

Packaged fuel was made chiefly from low-volatile bituminous coal. Two plants, however, used a small quantity of petroleum coke in addition to bituminous coal.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The information used in this publication was obtained from annual reports voluntarily submitted by fuel-briquet- and packaged-fuel-plant operators in the United States. Their cooperation is deeply appreciated by the Bureau of Mines.

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TABLE 1. - Fuel-briquetting and packaged-fuel plants in the United States that reported production in 1958

Operator	Address	Location of plant	Raw fuel used
FUEL-BRIQUETTING PLANTS			
ARKANSAS			
Arko Briquettes, Inc.	Post Office Box 151 Fort Smith, Ark.	Fort Smith	Semianthracite.
ILLINOIS			
Coal Processing Corp.	360 West Jackson Blvd. Chicago 6, Ill.	Buckner	Bituminous.
INDIANA			
Chicago Briquet Co., Inc.	300 Riley Rd. East Chicago, Ind.	East Chicago	Semianthracite and petroleum coke.
MICHIGAN			
Johnson Coal Cubing Co., Inc. ..	9309 Hubbell Ave. Detroit 28, Mich.	Detroit	Bituminous and petroleum coke.
MISSOURI			
St. Louis Briquette Co.	3183 Morganford Rd. St. Louis 16, Mo.	St. Louis	Do.
Traux-Traer Coal Co.	111 North Wabash Ave. Chicago 2, Ill.	Kansas City	Anthracite (other than Pennsylvania), semianthracite, and petroleum coke.
PENNSYLVANIA			
American Briquet Co.	1922 Lewis Tower Bldg. Philadelphia 2, Pa.	Lykens	Pennsylvania anthracite.
		Pine Grove	Do.
WEST VIRGINIA			
Berwind Fuel Co.	141 West Jackson Blvd. Chicago 4, Ill.	Berwind	Bituminous.
Raleigh Wyoming Mining Co.	360 West Jackson Blvd. Chicago 6, Ill.	Glen Rogers	Do.
WISCONSIN			
Berwind Fuel Co.	141 West Jackson Blvd. Chicago 4, Ill.	Superior	Bituminous and Pennsylvania anthracite.
North Western-Hanna Fuel Co. ...	2150 North Prospect Ave. Milwaukee, Wis.	Milwaukee	Bituminous, Pennsylvania anthracite, and petroleum coke.
The C. Reiss Coal Co.	Reiss Bldg. Sheboygan, Wis.	Ashland	Bituminous and Pennsylvania anthracite.
		Green Bay	Do.
Stott Briquet Co., Inc.	2200 University Ave. St. Paul 14, Minn.	Superior	Bituminous, Pennsylvania anthracite, and petroleum coke.

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TABLE 1. - Fuel-briquetting and packaged-fuel plants in the United States that reported production in 1958 (Con.)

Operator	Address	Location of plant	Raw fuel used
WISCONSIN (Con.)			
North American Coal & Dock Co. . United Coal & Dock Div.	704 West Wisconsin Ave. Milwaukee 3, Wis.	Milwaukee	Bituminous, Pennsylvania anthracite, petroleum coke, and bituminous coke.
PACKAGED-FUEL PLANTS			
ILLINOIS			
Harrington-McKinstra	Benton & Washington Sts. Freeport, Ill.	Freeport	Bituminous
Rockford Atlas Fuel Co.	208 Peoples Ave. Rockford, Ill.	Rockford	Bituminous and petroleum coke.
INDIANA			
Superior Fuel Co.	919 Wells St. Fort Wayne 7, Ind.	Fort Wayne	Bituminous.
Ullery Fuel & Supply Co.	319 South St. Peter St. South Bend, Ind.	South Bend	Do.
Walton Coal & Oil Co.	1506 South Anthony Blvd. Fort Wayne 4, Ind.	Fort Wayne	Do.
MICHIGAN			
Bricker Bros.	24581 Sherwood Ave. Center Line, Mich.	Center Line	Do.
Johnson Coal Cubing Co., Inc. ..	9309 Hubbell Ave. Detroit 28, Mich.	Detroit	Do.
K. & K. Coal Co.	212 Smith St. Monroe, Mich.	Monroe	Do.
Legion Oil & Coal Co.	1021 West Front St. Monroe, Mich.	do.	Do.
Matthes Coal Co.	404 Dean St. Adrian, Mich.	Adrian	Do.
MINNESOTA			
Minneapolis Coal Co.	74 Lowry Ave., North Minneapolis 12, Minn.	Minneapolis	Bituminous and petroleum coke.
Simonson Cashway Co.	St. Cloud, Minn.	St. Cloud	Bituminous.
OHIO			
Ackerman Coal Co.	1202 Lagrange St. Toledo, Ohio	Toledo	Do.
Air City Fuels, Inc.	1287 Air City Ave. Dayton 4, Ohio	Dayton	Do.
Bartak Coal Co.	5381 Dunham Rd. Maple Heights, Ohio	Maple Heights	Do.
Jones Coal Co.	112 South Dutoit St. Dayton 3, Ohio	Dayton	Do.
Moelder Coal Co.	Chickering Ave. Cincinnati 32, Ohio	Cincinnati	Do.

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TABLE 1. - Fuel-briquetting and packaged-fuel plants in the United States that reported production in 1958 (Con.)

Operator	Address	Location of plant	Raw fuel used
OHIO (Con.)			
Pacific Coal & Supply, Inc.	6319 Kinsman Ave. Cleveland, Ohio	Cleveland	Bituminous.
Ralph Coal & Supply Co.	873 Western Ave. Toledo, Ohio	Toledo	Do.
Whitehouse Coal & Supply Co. ...	8710 Broadway Cleveland 5, Ohio	Cleveland	Do.
VIRGINIA			
Superior Coal & Paper Corp.	1543 East Princess Anne Rd. Norfolk, Va.	Norfolk	Do.
Wright Coal & Oil Co., Inc.	1019 West 41st St. Norfolk 9, Va.	Norfolk	Do.
WISCONSIN			
The C. Reiss Coal Co.	Reiss Bldg. Sheboygan, Wis.	Green Bay	Do.

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TABLE 2. - Annual capacity and production of briquetting plants in the United States, 1954-58

	Active plants	Annual capacity (net tons)	Production	
			Net tons	Percent of capacity
1954	25	4,161,000	1,624,000	39.0
1955	23	3,841,000	1,630,000	42.4
1956	21	3,716,000	1,519,000	40.9
1957	17	3,088,000	1,105,000	35.8
1958:				
Plants with capacity of -				
Less than 25,000 tons	-	- - -	- - -	- -
25,000 to less than 100,000 tons	6	308,000	123,000	39.9
100,000 to less than 200,000 tons	4	450,000	194,000	43.1
200,000 to less than 400,000 tons	3	760,000	210,000	27.6
400,000 or more tons	3	1,500,000	508,000	33.9
Total	16	3,018,000	1,035,000	34.3
Plants with production of -				
Less than 5,000 tons	2	(1/)	(1/)	(1/)
5,000 to less than 10,000 tons	-	- - -	- - -	- -
10,000 to less than 25,000 tons	3	296,000	69,000	23.3
25,000 to less than 100,000 tons	8	1,222,000	458,000	37.5
100,000 or more tons	3	1,500,000	508,000	33.9
Total	16	3,018,000	1,035,000	34.3

1/ Combined with 10,000 to less than 25,000 tons to avoid disclosing individual company figures.

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TABLE 3. - Annual capacity and production of packaged-fuel plants in the United States, 1954-58

	Active plants	Annual capacity (net tons)	Production	
			Net tons	Percent of capacity
1954	37	243,300	77,360	31.8
1955	31	198,400	69,212	34.9
1956	26	174,600	64,960	37.2
1957	23	150,200	47,287	31.5
1958:				
Plants with capacity of -				
Less than 5,000 tons	17	36,000	7,372	20.5
5,000 to less than 10,000 tons	2	1/ 105,800	1/ 28,397	1/ 26.8
10,000 to less than 15,000 tons	2			
15,000 to less than 25,000 tons	1			
25,000 or more tons	1			
Total	23	141,800	35,769	25.2
Plants with production of -				
Less than 1,000 tons	18	43,800	8,059	18.4
1,000 to less than 3,000 tons	2	1/ 98,000	1/ 27,710	1/ 28.3
3,000 to less than 5,000 tons	1			
5,000 to less than 10,000 tons	1			
10,000 or more tons	1			
Total	23	141,800	35,769	25.2

1/ Combined to avoid disclosing individual company figures.

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